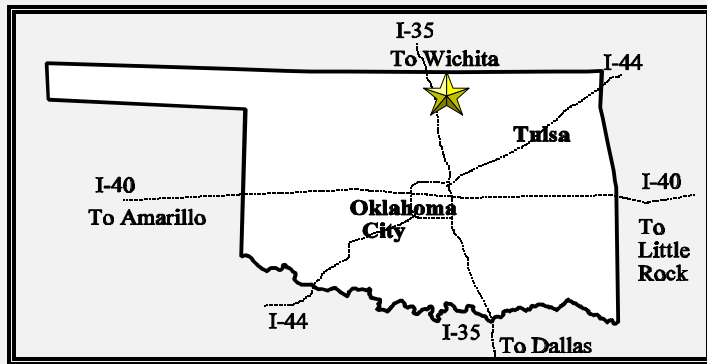


PONCA TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA



<u>Tribal Members:</u>	2,581	<u>Service Area Population:</u>	1,678
<u>Acreage:</u>		<u>Tribal:</u>	1,748
<u>Allotted:</u>	13,120	<u>Checkerboard:</u>	Yes
<u>Location:</u>	100 miles north of Oklahoma City		
<u>Address:</u>	20 White Eagle Drive, Ponca City, OK 74601		
<u>Phone:</u>	(580) 762-8104	<u>Fax:</u>	(580) 762-7436
<u>Geographical Boundaries:</u>	Kay County		
<u>Environmental Office:</u>	Talee Redcorn, Environmental Coordinator Dilbert Cole, Environmental Tech Ponca@hit.net Phone: (580) 763-0120 Fax: (405) 762-2743		

History: French trappers exploring the Missouri River and its tributaries made first contact with the Ponca during the 18th century. However, it was not until the mid 19th century that European incursion into Ponca territory threatened the Tribe's way of life. In 1877, the Indian Commissioner instructed the Ponca removed to Indian Territory. They suffered in Indian Territory due to the difference in climate, as well as lack of provisions. In January 1879, Chief Standing Bear resolved to return to the tribal homeland after his own son died. Upon arrival in Nebraska, Standing Bear and his followers were arrested by General George Cook. An outpouring of public support for the Ponca culminated in a Federal court decision which ruled in favor of the Ponca, allowing them to return to Nebraska. A portion of the Tribe remained in Indian Territory and most of their lands were eventually allotted to individual tribal members. The tribal members incorporated as the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma on September 20, 1950 under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act.

Solid Waste Preliminary Environmental Assessment: According to the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC), eleven illegal dumping waste sites were identified. The sites were less than one half of an acre in size. Currently, the OEM is working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to clean up two specific illegal dump sites. The OEM is looking into the development of solid waste management alternatives. Also, the Tribe is conducting research activities on a landfill within the Tribe's jurisdiction. The landfill is known as Vashi Four-Eyes Landfill. This land was initially Indian owned, but title was conveyed from trust to fee-simple (purchased by Ponca City through the Bureau of Indian Affairs) giving the State of Oklahoma the right to govern landfill operations. The State of Oklahoma continues to provide permit compliance oversight for this landfill. The Ponca Tribe has expressed disappointment with the handling of the landfill by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the State of Oklahoma. Three tracts of land adjoining the landfill are owned by Ponca Indians. The OEM is looking into program development strategies to ensure that this type of activity does not occur in the future.